

# WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

**Big Wood Canal Company**  
**409 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho**  
**Monday, July 26, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**

### ATTENDEES:

1. Bob Simpson – City of Carey
2. Leslie Moore – Friends of the Cottonwoods
3. Carol Blackburn – Conservation
4. Bob Bolte – SCD Gooding
5. Mark Toone – Livestock
6. Bill Davis – CAFO
7. Lynn Harmon – BWCC
8. Daryle James – Recreation
9. Dayna Gross – The Nature Conservancy
10. George Kirk – Sun Valley Ranch LLC
11. Sean Woodhead – DEQ-TFRO
12. Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO
13. Chuck Pentzer - ISCC

### I. Welcome and Introduction

*Bob Simpson – Acting Chairman*

Meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed. Each of the attendees introduced themselves and whom they represented at the meeting.

### II. WAG Business

*Bob Simpson – Acting Chairman*

- a. Minutes for the previous meeting on March 23, 2010, were reviewed. No changes were suggested. Minutes were approved as written.
- b. Each 319 project was voted on separately and both were approved.
- c. We need to update our lists and make sure we have a quorum of voting members.
- d. The next meeting will be August 24 at 7:00 pm.

### III. 319 Proposal – Loving Creek Enhancement

*Dayna Gross – The Nature Conservancy*

Silver Creek is one of the largest spring creeks in the west. It is a very unique system located approximately 30 miles south of Sun Valley in Blaine County. It is a major tributary of the Little Wood River. Loving Creek is the source of approximately 30% of the water in Silver Creek. There has been an inpouring of

sediment in the early 1990's. Loving Creek is a 303(d) listed stream for temperature.

The Loving Creek Enhancement project is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. The project will focus on two areas near the Hayspur Hatchery. It is not a production hatchery any more; however, a lot of sediment and nutrients went into the creek from the hatchery. Upstream of the hatchery is a diversion off of Loving Creek where about 15 cfs divert from Loving Creek to the hatchery. We are looking to reconfigure the diversion. There is no fish access to the upper Loving Creek. The pond by the hatchery is full of silt and there is no activity there; it is cut off from the rest of the system. The second part of the project is to reconfigure and clean up that area.

Not a lot of monitoring has been done, and with this project we will monitor all around from beginning to end. We will be using some biologists, some wetland sod, and building new islands. We will hold the silt in place and use it to build islands and plant them for shade. The diversion will change for fish passage. We will also be putting in sediment catches between the hatchery and the downstream landowner.

The project cost is \$180,000. We have some of that reserved through private grants and \$10,000 from one of the landowners.

#### **IV. 319 Proposal – Spring Creek**

*George Kirk - Landowner*

The project is being sponsored by Spring Creek and Crystal Creek Ranches in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service. The project area is in the bottom lands of the Big Wood River, which is a 303 (d) listed impaired river. It will include about four miles of the Black Slough with heavily degraded wetlands and spring creeks. Problems in the area include over-widened and shallow channels with elevated sediment levels that are detrimental to spawning trout, adverse effects of perched and undersized culverts, and elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen.

The target outcomes of the project are (1) reestablish a self-maintaining natural channel, (2) reduce maximum water temperatures to less than 65 degrees F, (3) reduce the levels of fine sediment within the riffles to 12-13% as far as sediments are concerned, (4) restore natural stream gradients by getting rid of culverts and restoring connectivity, (5) increase flows to a minimum of 10 cfs, and (6) manage for long-term water quality improvements.

The design is to abandon the existing over-wide sediment filled spring channel to a degree and construct a new channel back up on the terrace. On various points in the old channel we would plug it and utilize parts of the existing channel for deeper groundwater exchange, somewhat of a cooling basin for the design. Areas in the existing channel behind the plug would be left for a significantly diverse habitat.

The Project entails 20,900 linear feet of restored channel with a total cost of \$522,500. The 319 request is \$250,000 and matching funds of \$272,500.

The water quality benefits would include cleaner, colder water, reduced instream sediment, and increased base-flows entering the Big Wood River.

There was concern from some members of the WAG about changing the natural channel of the springs and constructing a new channel. There was a concern as to whether permits can be issued for this or not.

## **V. DEQ-Twin Falls Regional Office Update**

*Sue Switzer – DEQ-TFRO*

- Anti-Degradation – final rule making – Clean Water Act requires Idaho to protect the high quality water of the state from degradation. Federal law requires that the state have both anti-degradation policy and methods to implement the policy. Although Idaho has an anti-degradation policy in rule, there are no procedures in place to implement that policy. Because of that, EPA was given 60 day notice of intent to sue by ICL for their failure on oversight of Idaho water quality rules. Therefore, Idaho is required to adopt an Anti-Degradation Implementation Procedure.

There have been several meetings held involving municipalities; industry, aquaculture, canal companies, and others. They want to have written language ready by the end of the month for this legislative session. There are still things to be ironed out before it is ready. If you are interested, you can contact Don Essig at (208) 373-0119 or [don.essig@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:don.essig@deq.idaho.gov). The preliminary draft is available at [www.deq.idaho.gov/rules/water/58\\_0102\\_1001\\_negotiated.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/rules/water/58_0102_1001_negotiated.cfm)

- Little Wood River 5-Year Review – This has been put aside because of budget and priorities. Some data was gathered earlier; I will be contacting agencies for additional data and putting together a document. This will be going to the forefront; therefore, we will need to meet more regularly so that you are in the loop.

In 2011 I will start evaluation of Camas Creek and in 2012, the Big Wood.

- Integrated Report – The draft 2010 Integrated Report is currently being reviewed internally and corrections are being made. This will be out for public comment the beginning of August. There is a 30 day comment period with the option of a 15 day extension.

Category 1 is waters that are attaining water quality standards and are in wilderness areas and roadless areas. We do not have any in the Big Wood River that are designated Category 1. Category 2 is waters that are attaining some designated uses; they do not require a TMDL. Category 3 is unassessed waters or waters that we do not have the tools to assess. Category 4 is waters impaired or threatened or a TMDL has been completed. Category 4a has approved TMDLs. Category 4c is water impaired by non-pollutants; flow or

habitat altered. Category 5 includes newly listed waters; impaired waters requiring a TMDL. These are the ones you need to be aware of and put in your comments if you have any information on these waters.

- There is no BURP crew for 2010, but the State Office does have a group that is doing random sites. There might be a BURP program coming back in 2011, but it will be modified from what we have had in previous years.
- Quagga traps are being put out this year. We are trying to target the places where boats are being launched and there is a potential of transporting from one place to another.

#### **IV Adjourn**

*Bob Simpson – Acting Chairman*

 V CHAIR  
**Chairman**

8-25-10  
**Date of Approval**

The Meeting was recorded, and the recording is included as part of the administrative record.